

able to pass the largest tax increase in American history. Republicans, on the other hand, wanted to reduce the deficit by cutting spending.

Republicans believe that government is too big; in fact, way too big. They believe that Washington wastes too much of the taxpayers' money. One would think that this is an obvious point. After all, even the President himself said, in his 1996 State of the Union address, that the era of big government is over. If only that were true.

We can see now that this declaration was nothing more than words. Big government is alive and well; in fact, bigger than ever. In fact, the Democrats have come back with still more ways to increase the size and power of the government every year since.

While we can say that government is not quite as big as it would be if the Republicans had not taken control of Congress in 1995, the truth is that government continues to grow. Any attempts to cut government, no matter how wasteful and counterproductive the program, the liberals will immediately attack them as extremist or mean-spirited.

It has never occurred to them that it is perhaps mean-spirited on the part of politicians to have so little respect for the working man's labor that Washington takes between one-fourth and one-third of the middle class family's paycheck just to pay off Uncle Sam.

So that leaves us with the question, how did we go from \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye can see only 2½ years ago to the budget surplus we now enjoy. It is true that there have been some reductions in spending, but almost all of them have come out of one place that it should not have come out of, the Pentagon.

Defense spending is now dangerously low, and our military forces are not what they used to be, but liberals, in their boundless faith in human nature, ignore history and simply do not believe in the fundamental precept of peace through strength.

As for other spending, Republicans did manage to limit the number of new spending initiatives by President Clinton and the Democrats over the past few years. But the primary reason why the budget is in surplus today is because revenues are way, way up.

Liberals will point to the President's 1993 tax increase as the reason revenues are up, hoping that we will not examine the budget tables to see if in fact it is true. Revenues are up primarily from the number of people who are taking advantage of low tax rates on capital gains, the part of the economy that is the lifeblood of a dynamic, growing economy.

President Reagan cut the tax on capital gains and the Republicans cut it again just last year. Savers, investors, entrepreneurs, and other job creators have taken advantage of that. The economy is benefiting from jobs. Jobs are being created and revenues have soared. That has been the primary rea-

son why the budget is now in surplus, when it was deep in red only a few years ago.

I would invite any of my Democrat colleagues who dispute these findings to come forward and show me otherwise. Perhaps the liberals have access to another set of government documents with a different set of statistics, but if they use the same Treasury figures that I do, they will have to admit that the Reagan tax cuts and the Republican tax cuts are the most significant reason behind our current economic boom.

With all due credit to Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, for his outstanding stewardship of monetary policy, we should mostly thank President Reagan for turning around an economy that was in the ditch. We are still benefiting from his decision to make the United States a low-tax, low-regulation economy, and thus able to compete in the world better than any other.

□ 1945

The Republicans forced President Clinton to renounce his own budget with \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye can see. We are grateful that he at least accepted the need for the government to balance the budget and put its financial house in order.

We would like to encourage him to continue on this path. Especially if he accepts the view that Washington can still afford to cut spending, cut taxes, and make good on its promise that the end of big government is over.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. PELOSI addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to use the time of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

WORDS OF SIR THOMAS MORE SHED LIGHT ON CURRENT DILEMMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of the hearing held in the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to impeachment, a few words were uttered by Mr. Shippers. He said,

I'm no longer speaking as Chief Investigative Counsel, but rather as a citizen of the United States who happens to be a father and a grandfather. To paraphrase Sir Thomas

More in Robert Bolt's excellent play, 'A Man for All Seasons': The laws of this country are the great barriers that protect the citizens from the winds of evil tyranny. If we permit one of those laws to fall, who will be able to stand in the gusts that will follow?

This was, as Mr. Shippers indicated, a paraphrase. But I suggest, Mr. Speaker, it was a lot more than that. It takes Robert Bolt's words, it takes the life of Sir Thomas More as recounted in the play, "A Man for All Seasons" and turns it upside down.

Mr. Speaker, as one of the Members who has cited a "A Man for All Seasons" and Sir Thomas More's life in my own remarks on this floor previously, I would like to actually read for the RECORD what was said by Sir Thomas More as conceived by Robert Bolt.

He describes More's son-in-law as William Roper, as follows: William Roper, a stiff body and an immobile face with little imagination and moderate brain, but an all too consuming rectitude, which is his cross, his solace, and his hobby.

That may very well apply to some of the individuals who are taking and twisting Bolt's words, particularly as paraphrased by Mr. Shippers.

What actually takes place is More, in discussion with his daughter and with his wife and with his son-in-law, concerning the law. The daughter says at one point to him, "Father, that man is bad," referring to another individual. Sir Thomas More said, "There is no law against that." The reply from Mr. Roper is "There is, God's law." More says, "Then God can arrest him."

Thinking that perhaps More is trying to set himself up above God's law with man's law, he remonstrates with More. And More says, "Let me draw your attention to a fact. I'm not God. The currents and eddies of right and wrong, which you find such plain sailing, I can't navigate. I'm no voyager. But in the thickets of the law, oh, there I'm a forester. I doubt if there's a man alive who could follow me there, thank God." His daughter says to him, "While you talk, he's gone," referring to the evil man to whom she had first referred.

More says, "And go he should, if he was the Devil himself, until he broke the law." His son-in-law says, "So now you'd give the Devil benefit of law." And More said, "Yes. What would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the Devil?" Roper said, "I would cut down every law in England to do that." And More said, "Oh? And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned round on you, where you would you hide, Roper, the laws all being flat? This country's planted thick with laws from coast to coast—man's laws, not God's—and if you cut them down—and you're just the man to do it—do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the Devil benefit of law, for my own safety's sake."

I suggest to Mr. Shippers what is at stake here is our law as embodied in